

Learning Conversation Notes	
Name of Partner: Placer Nature Center	Date: 12-19-07
Conversation Participants: Don Ferretti, Nancy Baggett, Cathy Ferron, Christine Mattos, Heidi Kolbe, Judy Marston, Leslie Warren, Linda Desai	
Outcome: Parents, caregivers, and childcare professionals will incorporate “nature play” and appreciation in their children’s learning experience so that these children view their environment with care, curiosity, and enjoy outside play.	
Performance Measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demographics according to the categories mandated in the First 5 Placer Demographic Tool. In addition the following will be required; number of children served directly, the number of children served indirectly and the number of parents/caregivers served. • The results of a parent/caregiver survey to measure what “nature play” parents/caregivers have incorporated in their children’s lives, along with observations of the effect on their children. • The results of a teacher/childcare professional survey to measure what “nature play” has been incorporated into the educational environment (e.g. classroom curriculum, displays, library, outdoor time) and observations of the effect on the children in their care. • Photos and anecdotes/captions that address the outcomes. 	
Number of Children Served:	247
When served:	7/1/07 to 12/19/07
Gender:	
- Male	117
- Female	130
- Unknown	
Ages:	
- Prenatal	
- < 1 year	
- 1 year	3
- 2 years	15
- 3 years	68
- 4 years	161
- 5 years	
- Unknown	
Ethnicity:	
- Alaskan Native/ American Indian	1
- Asian	2

- Black/African American	9
- Hispanic/Latino	102
- Pacific Islander	
- White	126
- Multiracial	6
- Other	1

What is this data telling us about achievement of outcomes?

Demographics

- Have three parts to the program: presentations to early childhood educators through PCOE Early Childhood Education (ECE) workshops, having families and children on-site for “Our Day Outside”, and going to Head Start and state preschool sites to share nature play with both teachers and the children through the “Foothill Discovery” program.
- There were mostly 3 and 4 year olds served which seems appropriate given that the majority of the children were reached through the “Foothill Discovery” program. Additionally a large number of Hispanic children were served which is also a reflection of the “Foothill Discovery” demographics. Some of the Hispanic children are English speaking. Interpreters have been utilized for the Spanish speaking children.
- Ten children were eligible for Part B of IDEA. The service provider supplied the information about eligibility.
- Served regional area on a first come, first served basis. Good distribution geographically except for Tahoe
- Eight parents (of 11 children) were served during “Our Day Outside”. All the parents were English speaking. The flyer for the “Our Day Outside” was distributed through Head Start, the First 5 Partners listserve, state preschools, PCOE ECE Childcare Provider Network, to parents during fieldtrips, and in newspapers.
- There were 36 service providers trained during two evening sessions of the Discovering Nature with Young Children series given through the PCOE ECE workshops (some attended more than one workshop-unduplicated numbers will be available at the next Learning Conversation). Of the 36 attendees 3 were men. Most of the providers attending the training were from South and Western Placer. There were none from the Tahoe area.

Parent/Caregiver Survey

- Eight of the 8 parents attending with 11 children completed the survey.
- All parents indicated that while attending “Our Day Outside” they observed their children viewing the environment with care, enjoyment and curiosity.

Provider Survey

- From the numbers on the survey it appears the data is telling us that the teachers and childcare professionals have an intention to incorporate nature play into their curricula.

Photos and anecdotes/captions

- A static display of pictures showing activities done by children through the Placer Nature Center project.
- Children were observed doing the net exercise, building bird feeders, looking through binoculars to focus on various aspects of nature.

In what ways will we apply what we have learned from our data?

- Results from surveys completed by both childcare providers and Nature Docents indicate that children are viewing the environment with care, curiosity and enjoyment while engaged in the “Foothill Discovery” program. It would be more effective to look at the comments of the Nature Docents around the child outcome as a *separate* group along with the childcare provider’s observations relating to the child outcome.

- Translate flyers into Spanish to increase outreach to the Hispanic community.
- Distribute the flyer for the “Our Day Outside” more than one time.
- Review strategies for advertising the events to a broader audience.

Next Steps:

- Special needs demographic needs to be added to “Our Day Outside” surveys.
- Add a question to the survey asking what agencies are represented by service providers attending trainings.
- Do a follow-up survey with the providers associated with “Foothill Discovery” program to answer the question about actually incorporating nature play into their curriculum.
- The survey data needs to match the outcome. Do a different survey for providers attending PCOE ECE workshops more than one time. These questions can be printed on the back of the survey for first time attendees. On this survey do separate questions that address actual incorporation of nature play. Placer Nature Center staff will rewrite the survey and have it reviewed by the First 5 Placer Evaluator no later than January 11, 2008. The new survey will be used at the workshop scheduled for the end of January 2008.
- On the parent/caregiver survey questions 3 and 4 will be reworded to match the outcome. Additionally, follow-up questions for parents will be added to the back of the parent/caregiver survey in the same format as the PCOE ECE workshop survey.
- For the next Learning Conversation survey results will be provided in aggregated electronic format.
- The photos and anecdotes/captions will be provided on CD so they can be posted on the website. The anecdotes/captions should address the achievement of the outcome.
- Next Learning Conversation: Wednesday, March 12, 2008, 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM.